



## What is "Christian" about chatting?

Most people have heard about the perils and dangers of on-line chatting, particularly with predators looking for sexual rendezvous' - often with impressionable young people.

We do not dispute that such situations exist, and we always warn - sometimes repeatedly warn - our guests of those dangers, and how to minimise them.

"Christian" chatting takes several different forms, and can happen in a range of different ways; most "rooms" are for a specific aspect of Christianity, and usually they aren't mixed to any great degree, mainly because some of the activities do not appeal to different patrons (or guests).

The different sorts of "Christian" room can be catalogued thusly...

**Apologetics**  
**Denominational**  
**Evangelising**  
**Fellowship**  
**Teaching...**

## Who are we? What do we do?

Right from the outset, we structured ourselves as a family where we are prepared to give all who decide to stay with us an opportunity to grow through responsibility. We have actually gone against the typical **Christian Channel** concept of an **us** and **them** and opened our supervision to all who have shown loyalty and a will to make it work.

We are first and foremost a fellowship and friendship channel. We have a number of non-Christians who like to mix with us, perhaps because our standards are something to which they aspire.

A very close second to that is that we are **evangelistic** - we are prepared to discuss scripture, how individual passages relate to the **gospel** - and we have no fear in presenting the case for Christianity versus the worldly way.

We are also **evangelical** - we believe in the Bible to be taken mostly literally, rather than fairy stories or myths used to present a concept.

Many of us are also technically experienced people, and can be found camping out in a range of channels, hoping to offer help. Sometimes technical help is discussed in our channel - it is part and parcel of fellowshiping; after all a Christian does not go around all day just singing hymns!

## How can you help us?

**We are not after money**

Because we are a genuine community of real living people, each one of us has situations which could do with **covering prayer**. And so does our community of believers in a corporate sense.

From time to time there may be specific needs for people in our community, or people known to them (but not to us). This is like in a prayer chain in a church.

Such prayer needs should be considered confidential and not become an avenue for gossip, in the way **some** prayer chains become (sadly).

You do not need to physically participate in the chatroom, although if you decide to, you will always be very welcome.

If there is sufficient interest we could organise an email list so that those who are **our support** (you) may be better kept informed. This is called **communication!**

## Where and how do you find us?

On what is called **Internet Relay Chat** - also known as **IRC**.

This is different from the **World Wide Web** which has what are called **Java Chat Rooms**, like Yahoo, ICQ and many others.

Generally speaking you need a chat program such as **mIRC** - [www.mirc.co.uk](http://www.mirc.co.uk) - or **XChat** - <http://xchat.org> - both of which are available for **Microsoft Windows** computers.

There is an **Apple-Mac** equivalent, and **X-Chat** is originally a creation for the **Linux** operating system. **mIRC** will also work in **Linux**.

IRC is conducted on a large number of separate, unaffiliated server networks, with individual servers (computers you log into) usually in several different countries and linked together.

IRC is totally free of any access charge or cost to the end users; it is provided and maintained by unpaid volunteer staff, most of who spend their working day in the employ of an **Internet Service Provider** or **ISP**.

Most of the major networks provide a **java window** on their website so that people may access specific channels from airport kiosks, or work places (etc) that do not have chat clients.

We were originally established in 1999 on **irc.undernet.org** which has access to its 40,000 or so channels through its website at [www.undernet.org](http://www.undernet.org)

In 2001, there were severe attacks upon undernet by a Romanian teenager; these almost shut down the network. Along with a considerable number of other channels, we set up a "safe house" on a small network called **irc.starlink-irc.org**, and although we still maintain a presence there, logs show that traffic (people joining, talking, and leaving) has all but completely vanished.

Like the networks themselves, channels are staffed by unpaid volunteers. In most cases there is one person responsible to the network as the **Channel Owner** or **Channel Manager**.

Reporting to this individual is a group of **Channel Operators** who supervise the minute-by-minute operations, frequently under a middle-management team of **Admins**. We are no exception, it is a system which works, and has worked well over the years in all channels.

This obviously requires trust, confidence and respect both up and down the "chain of command". We have that mutual trust, confidence and respect, although it does not prevent the occasional heated debate out of channel by the staff!

## #Christian's Internet Addresses

### Primary Website

<http://www.chatministries.org>

### Secondary website

<http://chatministries.dyndns.org>

### Undernet access via www

<http://www.undernet.org/webchat.php>

then nominate **#Christian**

### Undernet access via irc

server: irc.undernet.org:6667

type **/join #Christian**